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° NUSAYNI, NAJI AMIN

~~Amir al-Fatah~~

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Palestine

Arab States and the Palestine Arab Government

No. 554

1.10.48.

WASHINGTON ONLY

A reliable source overheard a telephone conversation between the Mufti and the Lebanese Foreign Minister on September 28th, from which the following emerged.

(i) Last week all the Arab governments received telegraphic notification from Amr Hilmi Pasha of the formation of the Palestine Arab Government. This did not ask for recognition.

(ii) The Egyptian Prime Minister, Nokrashi Pasha has since proposed that Syria and the Lebanon should take the initiative in recognising the Palestine Arab Government. Both have however, declined, stating that recognition should come from all the Arab States simultaneously.

(iii) The Syrian Prime Minister has instructed the Syrian Consul in Jerusalem to approach King Abdullah and induce him to withdraw his opposition to the Palestine Arab Government. The Lebanese Prime Minister has sent Abdullah a telegram from Paris, urging him to co-operate fully with the other Arab States in view of the need to preserve a solid front before U.N.O.

(iv) Abul Fada, the Prime Minister of Transjordan, who is now in the Lebanon, has informed the Syrian Prime Minister that he condemns King Abdullah's attitude and that the King has been misled by palace intrigue, the Palestine Arab Government being, in fact, more favourable to King Abdullah than to the Mufti. He added that he would endeavour to induce Abdullah to change his mind.

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